<u>Claims</u>

The claimed invention is:

1.   A system for determining whether a person should have health care professional attention and for providing clinical notes to the caregiver, the system comprising:

a monitoring device having a microprocessor operably coupled to a memory unit, an input device, an output device, and a communication device, the memory unit being programmed with a set of instructions for posing questions to the person via the output device, receiving answers from the person via the input device, and transmitting the answers to a remote computer via the communication device;

the remote computer being programmed to

determine whether the person should have health care professional attention based at least in part upon the answers entered into the input device; and

automatically generate a clinical note based upon the answers transmitted to the remote computer.

2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a datastore accessible by the remote computer;

wherein the datastore stores clinical text associated with the questions posed to the person via the monitoring device; and

wherein the remote computer is programmed to generate the clinical note based at least in part upon the clinical text stored in the datastore.

3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the datastore also stores a symptom identifier associated with each of the questions posed to the person via the monitoring device; and

wherein the remote computer is programmed to select a grammatical rule for construction of the clinical note based upon the symptom identifier.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the clinical note comprises verbiage presenting symptoms reported by the person via the input device.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the monitoring device further comprises a biometric measuring unit operably coupled to the microprocessor;

the memory unit in the monitoring device is further programmed with a set of instructions to cause the biometric measuring unit to take a measurement of the patient, and to transmit the measurement to the remote computer; and

the remote computer is further programmed to generate a clinical note based upon the measurement transmitted to the remote computer.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote computer is further programmed to present a user interface that permits viewing of the clinical note and also permits viewing of a populace of persons identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the clinical note is communicated to a health care professional.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the communication occurs via e-mail.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote computer is further programmed to present questions to be posed to the person using the monitoring device, the questions being used to verify the determination that the person should have health care professional attention.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote computer is further programmed to provide a user interface permitting selection of a disease state for monitoring by the monitoring device.

11.   A computer system for interfacing with a monitoring device that poses questions regarding disease state symptoms to a person, receives answers from the person, and transmits the answers to the computer system, the computer system comprising:

a microprocessor operably coupled to a memory unit, an input device, an output device, and a communication device;

wherein the memory unit is programmed with a set of instructions for

determining whether the person should have health care professional attention based at least in part upon the answers transmitted to the computer system; and

generating a clinical note based upon the answers transmitted to the computer system.

12.   The computer system of claim 11, further comprising:

a datastore accessible by the computer system;

wherein the datastore stores clinical text associated with the questions posed to the person via the monitoring device; and

wherein the computer system is programmed to generate the clinical note based at least in part upon the clinical text stored in the datastore.

13.   The computer system of claim 12, wherein the datastore also stores a symptom identifier associated with each of the questions posed to the person via the monitoring device; and

wherein the remote computer is programmed to select a grammatical rule for construction of the clinical note based upon the symptom identifier.

14.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein the clinical note comprises verbiage presenting symptoms reported by the person via the monitoring device.

15.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein:

the computer system is further programmed to generate a clinical note based upon a biometric measurement transmitted to the computer system from the monitoring device.

16.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer system is further programmed to present a user interface that permits viewing of the clinical note and also permits viewing of a populace of persons identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional.

17.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein the clinical note is communicated to a health care professional.

18.   The computer system of claim 17, wherein the communication occurs via e-mail.

19.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer system is further programmed to present questions to be posed to the person using the monitoring device, the questions being used to verify the determination that the person should have health care professional attention.

20.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer system is further programmed to provide a user interface permitting selection of a disease state for monitoring by the monitoring device.

21.   A method, carried out by a computer system, of interfacing with a monitoring device that poses questions regarding disease state symptoms to a person, receives answers from the person, and transmits the answers to the computer system, the method comprising:

determining whether the person should have health care professional attention based at least in part upon the answers transmitted to the computer system; and

generating a clinical note based upon the answers transmitted to the computer system.

22.   The method of claim 21, further comprising:

storing, in a datastore, clinical text associated with the questions posed to the person via the monitoring device; and

generating the clinical note based at least in part upon the clinical text stored in the datastore.

23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

storing, in the datastore, symptom identifiers associated with each of the questions posed to the person via the monitoring device; and

selecting a grammatical rule for construction of the clinical note based upon the symptom identifiers.

24.   The method of claim 21, wherein the clinical note comprises verbiage presenting symptoms reported by the person via the monitoring device.

25.   The method of claim 21, further comprising:

generating a clinical note based upon a biometric measurement transmitted to the computer system from the monitoring device.

26.   The method of claim 21, further comprising:

presenting a user interface that permits viewing of the clinical note and also permits viewing of a populace of persons identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional.

27.   The method of claim 21, further comprising communicating the clinical note to the health care professional.

28.   The method of claim 27, wherein the communication occurs via e-mail.

29. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

presenting questions to be posed to the person using the monitoring device, wherein the questions are used to verify the determination that the person should have health care professional attention.

30. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

providing a user interface permitting selection of a disease state for monitoring by the monitoring device.

31. A system for determining whether a person should have health care professional attention, the system comprising:

a monitoring device having a microprocessor operably coupled to a memory unit, an input device, an output device, and a communication device, the memory unit being programmed with a set of instructions for posing questions to the person via the output device, receiving answers from the person via the input device, and transmitting the answers to a remote computer via the communication device;

the remote computer being programmed to

determine whether the person should have health care professional attention based at least in part upon the answers entered into the input device; and

permit entry, storage, and presentation of intervention data.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the intervention data includes data regarding a symptom to be counteracted and an action to be undertaken to counteract the symptom.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the intervention data further includes the date upon which the intervention data was entered into the remote computer system.

34.   The system of claim 33, wherein the intervention data further includes an indication of whether or not the action has counteracted the symptom.

35.   The system of claim 31, wherein the remote computer is further programmed to present a user interface that permits viewing of a populace of persons identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional.

36.   The system of claim 31, wherein the remote computer system is further programmed to present an operator with a set of questions, so that the operator may pose the questions to the person using the monitoring device, in response to the person having been identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional;

wherein the set of questions are designed to permit a conclusion to be drawn regarding a diagnosis of a symptom reported by the person using the device; and

wherein the set of questions are designed to permit a conclusion to be drawn regarding selection of an intervention appropriate for the diagnosis.

37.   The system of claim 36, wherein the remote computer is further programmed to arrive at a preliminary diagnosis and preliminary intervention as a function of the person's answers to the questions posed by the operator.

38.   The system of claim 37, wherein the remote computer is further programmed to generate a clinical note based upon the preliminary diagnosis and the preliminary intervention.

39.   The system of claim 36, wherein the set of questions is chosen based upon the answers transmitted to the remote computer by the monitoring device.

40.   The system of claim 36, wherein:

the monitoring device further comprises a biometric measuring unit operably coupled to the microprocessor;

the memory unit in the monitoring device is further programmed with a set of instructions to cause the biometric measuring unit to take a measurement of the patient, and to transmit the measurement to the remote computer; and

the remote computer is further programmed to choose the set of questions based upon the answers transmitted to the remote computer and the measurement taken by the biometric measurement unit.

41.   The system of claim 31, wherein intervention data is automatically entered into the remote computer, in response to the remote computer determining that the person should have health care professional attention.

42.   A computer system for interfacing with a monitoring device that poses questions regarding disease state symptoms to a person, receives answers from the person, and transmits the answers to the computer system, the computer system comprising:

a microprocessor operably coupled to a memory unit, an input device, an output device, and a communication device;

wherein the memory unit is programmed with a set of instructions for

determining whether the person should have health care professional attention based at least in part upon the answers entered into the input device; and

permitting entry, storage, and presentation of intervention data.

43.   The computer system of claim 42, wherein the intervention data includes data regarding a symptom to be counteracted and an action to be undertaken to counteract the symptom.

44.   The computer system of claim 43, wherein the intervention data further includes the date upon which the intervention data was entered into the remote computer system.

45.   The computer system of claim 44, wherein the intervention data further includes an indication of whether or not the action has counteracted the symptom.

46.   The computer system of claim 42, wherein the computer system is further programmed to present a user interface that permits viewing of a populace of persons identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional.

47.   The computer system of claim 42, wherein the computer system is further programmed to present an operator with a set of questions, so that the operator may pose the questions to the person using the monitoring device, in response to the person having been identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional;

        wherein the set of questions are designed to permit a conclusion to be drawn regarding a diagnosis of a symptom reported by the person using the device; and

        wherein the set of questions are designed to permit a conclusion to be drawn regarding selection of an intervention appropriate for the diagnosis.

48.   The computer system of claim 47, wherein the computer system is further programmed to arrive at a preliminary diagnosis and preliminary intervention as a function of the person's answers to the questions posed by the operator.

49.   The computer system of claim 48, wherein the computer system is further programmed to generate a clinical note based upon the preliminary diagnosis and the preliminary intervention.

50.   The computer system of claim 47, wherein the set of questions is chosen based upon the answers transmitted to the remote computer by the monitoring device.

51.   The computer system of claim 47, wherein:

the computer system is further programmed to choose the set of questions based upon the answers transmitted to the computer system and a measurement taken by a biometric measurement unit associated with the monitoring device.

52.   The computer system of claim 42, wherein intervention data is automatically entered into the computer system, in response to the computer system determining that the person should have health care professional attention.

53.   A method, carried out by a computer system, of interfacing with a monitoring device that poses questions regarding disease state symptoms to a person, receives answers from the person, and transmits the answers to the computer system, the method comprising:

determining whether the person should have health care professional attention based at least in part upon the answers transmitted to the computer system; and

permitting entry, storage, and presentation of intervention data.

54.   The method of claim 53, wherein the intervention data includes data regarding a symptom to be counteracted and an action to be undertaken to counteract the symptom.

55.   The method of claim 54, wherein the intervention data further includes the date upon which the intervention data was entered into the remote computer system.

56.   The method of claim 55, wherein the intervention data further includes an indication of whether or not the action has counteracted the symptom.

57.   The method of claim 53, further comprising presenting a user interface that permits viewing of a populace of persons identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional.

58.   The method of claim 53, further comprising:

presenting an operator with a set of questions, so that the operator may pose the questions to the person using the monitoring device, in response to the person having been identified as potentially needing attention by a health care professional;

wherein the set of questions are designed to permit a conclusion to be drawn regarding a diagnosis of a symptom reported by the person using the device; and

wherein the set of questions are designed to permit a conclusion to be drawn regarding selection of an intervention appropriate for the diagnosis.

59.   The method of claim 58, further comprising arriving at a preliminary diagnosis and preliminary intervention as a function of the person's answers to the questions posed by the operator.

60.   The method of claim 59, further comprising generating a clinical note based upon the preliminary diagnosis and the preliminary intervention.

61.   The method of claim 58, wherein the set of questions is chosen based upon the answers transmitted to the remote computer by the monitoring device.

62.   The method of claim 58, further comprising choosing the set of questions based upon the answers transmitted to the computer system and a measurement taken by a biometric measurement unit associated with the monitoring device.

63.   The method of claim 53, further comprising automatically generating intervention data, in response to the computer system determining that the person should have health care professional attention.